

Mt. Iron Public Library

Policy of use of Internet Access and Computer Terminals

Statement of Purpose:

The Mountain Iron Public Library will provide Internet access as one means of fulfilling its mission "to provide access to information and materials which promote education, intellectual stimulation and entertainment to the citizens of Mountain Iron."

Policy:

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the regular collection. The Internet offers a variety of information that is professionally and culturally stimulating; however, information is constantly changing, making it impossible to predict what information is available. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining content of information found on the Internet.

The Mountain Iron Public Library subscribes to the American Library Association's Library Bill of Right: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." Individual users may not use the computers to display graphics that are obscene under Minnesota Statutes Section 617.241. They may not use the computers for illegal purposes. It is also the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using Public Library resources and facilities.

The Arrowhead Library System receives federal funding in support of Internet access. Federal law requires libraries receiving such funding to install a technological device to block access to imagery defined by the Act as being harmful to minors. Federal law allows an adult to request that a CIPA-affected site be temporarily unblocked for "bonafide research or other legal purposes."

The Mountain Iron Public Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance for their own children's use of library materials and resources, including electronic resources. The American Library Association's Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights: "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents--and only parents--have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children--and only their children--to library resources." Parents are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values. Parents are encouraged to share with their children rules for online safety on the Safekids web site.

Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users need to be good information consumers, questioning the validity of the information.